

ART 243.001

Fall 2013

TTH 8:30-11:15am

ERC B215 (Woods Computer Lab)

Catalog description:

ART 243 Digital Photography

3 semester hours. FA.

This course introduces the process of digital photography. Camera handling, editing techniques and the elements of design are covered. Students are encouraged to pursue this art form in the surrounding community and landscape.

Objectives:

I want to help provide opportunities and a learning environment that will allow you to do the following:

- 1) To see (to increase your awareness so that you can be more open to visual possibilities);
- 2) To be creative (to pique your curiosity and encourage visual – and actual – exploration in the hope that you will respond creatively);
- 3) To become knowledgeable and skillful (to help you learn some of the technical aspects of the camera and editing software and elements of design and composition, so that you can enjoy the process, be free to do the above and to become an educated viewer and consumer of images);
- 4) To make images that are interesting and technically & compositionally good;
- 5) To begin developing your own personal photographic style.

Equipment (your own):

- 1) Your own digital camera (and lenses if DSLR or mirrorless);
- 2) Memory card(s);
- 3) Flash drive(s);
- 4) Tripod

Texts and software:

- 1) Your camera's user's manual;
- 2) Kelby, Scott. The Digital Photography Book [RMC bookstore]
- 3) Photoshop Elements 10.0 and Lightroom is provided on class computers (or use your own);
- 4) Photoshop or Photoshop Elements how-to book* [optional]
- 5) Photoshop User magazine & interactive website (RMC Library office - see Bethany for code)

The classroom:

We are using the Woods Computer Lab in order to have access to the editing software, not as an email or personal web-surfing station. Unless otherwise directed, do the following:

- 1) During class time, restrict your computer usage to image uploading & editing.
- 2) During presentations and instruction, turn your monitors sideways and give your undivided attention to the presenter.
- 3) When no other classes are in session, you may (should) use the computer lab for editing.
- 4) Do not make or receive phone calls or texts in the classroom.
- 5) Come to class - on time and stay the duration.

Adherence, or lack thereof, to the above will affect your grade.

Performance and evaluation: You are expected to do and will be evaluated on the following:

- 1) attend class (on time and for the duration);
- 2) participate in field trips;
- 3) complete assignments;
- 4) capture and edit images in and out of class;
- 5) display images in class (as assigned, formal presentations at midterm and final critiques); on-line (your blog); and perhaps other venues;
- 6) attend all critiques and offer constructive feed back;
- 7) complete all assigned readings;
- 8) research and present a photographer to the class.

* Only photographs taken during fall semester 2012 may be submitted for a grade.

Field Trips:

Field trips are designed to give you photo opportunities. If you are reasonably unable to attend a field trip, you will be expected to find an appropriate and comparable alternative.

Online Display: You will have the opportunity and be expected to display selected images in a blog format at blogspot.com or a site of your choosing.

Criteria for Evaluating Submitted Photographs:

Though all photographs do not have the same aim, there are some common criteria – or rules – that I consider for all. Know the rules so you can use them – or break them – effectively.

Sharpness: Generally, your photographs should have sharp focus; sometimes however, soft focus or blur can enhance. Evaluate critically.

Exposure: Your photographs normally should balance light, dark and middle values with reasonable detail in each. Color should be balanced as well. Avoid clipping. As with focus, there are exceptions.

Composition: How the elements of your photograph are arranged makes a difference. Refer to the presentation on composition.

Creativity, Aesthetics and Adventure: Your level of aesthetic exploration, creativity and sense of photographic adventure will influence your grade. Avoid the cliché.

Editing: The level of editing should be appropriate to the needs of your image. Learn your camera well so that editing will be more of an enhancement than a repair job.

Meeting the Assignment: Assignments are different. Be sure you understand what is being asked of you and complete the particular requirements.

Critiques: Critiques are opportunities to present your work to the class as well as to your professor, and to receive and give feedback. Critiques also serve as deadlines (motivation) and as concrete evidence for grading. In addition to submitting the images as described below, you are expected to demonstrate an informed understanding of camera and editing processes and techniques in your photographs.

Individual Project Critiques: Present electronically.

Final Critique: Present electronically. Projects TBA

Student Art Show: Submit one to three prints, properly presented.

Semester Grade: This grade is determined by how well you demonstrate the above. Some of the questions I'll ask that second week of December will be... Did you come to class and go on field trips? Did you work hard? Were you an asset to the class? How good are your images? Were they turned in on time? Do they reflect mastery of technique, exploration and creativity or are they amateurish, cliché and bland? Can you articulate your thoughts about photography - your own & others'? (Critiques are great for this.) Are you an "educated consumer"? Are you more aware & perceptive? Have you grown?

Additionally, grades represent two things: an evaluation of student performance and the standards of Rocky Mountain College (as well as my own). It is my goal to fairly evaluate students while maintaining high standards for the art department and the college as a whole. I want your grade to mean something. I will try my best to evaluate your performance – vis-à-vis your classmates' – accordingly.

OPI/PEPPS Table for Syllabi

ART 243

Standard	Course Objective
10.58.503 ART K-12	
(1) The program requires that successful candidates:	
(a) develop competence and a working vocabulary in:	
(i) art production through developing the ability to present imaginative and original ideas and feelings by creating images in a concentration of one or more of the visual art forms;	1) To see (to increase your awareness so that you can be more open to visual possibilities); 2) To be creative (to pique your curiosity and encourage visual – and actual – exploration in the hope that you will respond creatively); 4) To make images that are interesting and technically & compositionally good; 5) To begin developing your own personal photographic style.
(iii) art criticism through developing the ability to analyze and evaluate the structure and significance of works of art and to make reasoned interpretations and judgments about their meaning; and	3) To become knowledgeable and skillful (to help you learn some of the technical aspects of the camera and editing software and elements of design and composition, so that you can enjoy the process, be free to do the above and to become an educated viewer and consumer of images);
(b) use appropriate technologies as tools of expression, research, and assessment;	3) To become knowledgeable and skillful (to help you learn some of the technical aspects of the camera and editing software and elements of design and composition, so that you can enjoy the process, be free to do the above and to become an educated viewer and consumer of images); 4) To make images that are interesting and technically & compositionally good;